

**We Claim:**

1. A composition comprising:
  - i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
  - ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*,  
5 *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*; and
  - iii) one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the plant species are *Scutellaria baicalensis*,  
*Glycyrrhiza uralensis*, *Ziziphus jujuba*, and *Paeonia lactiflora*.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds are  
cancer chemotherapeutics.
4. The composition of claim 3 wherein the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds are  
selected from the group consisting of an irinotecan formulation, 5-fluorouracil, VP-16 and  
beta-L-Dioxolane-cytidine.
5. A method of increasing the therapeutic index of cancer therapeutic compounds for the  
treatment of cancer by administering to a mammal in need thereof, a therapeutically effective  
amount of a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a plant species of  
each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.  
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the material from the herbs is in the form of a granulated  
extract from a concentrated aqueous liquor.  
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7. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is in an ingestible form.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the ingestible form is selected from the group consisting of powder, capsule, liquid and tablet.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the composition is in the form of a suppository.

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10. The method of claim 5 wherein the mammal is a human.

11. A method of treating a disease in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

- 10 i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
- ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*; and
- iii) one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

15 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the mammal is a human.

16 13. A method of treating a disease in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more chemotherapeutic compounds and a composition comprising:

- 20 i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
- ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.

25 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition is administered before the administration of the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition is administered after the administration of the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the mammal is a human.

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17. A method of modulating hematopoietic activity for the treatment of a disease by administering to a mammal in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of a composition consisting essentially of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the material from the herbs is in the form of a granulated extract from a concentrated aqueous liquor.

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19. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition is in an ingestible form.

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20. The method of claim 19 wherein the ingestible form is selected from the group consisting of powder, capsule, liquid and tablet.

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21. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition is in the form of a suppository.

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22. The method of claim 17 wherein the mammal is a human.

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23. A method of improving the quality of life of a mammal undergoing chemotherapy which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more chemotherapeutic compounds and a composition comprising:

i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. 044574-5064-US

ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*,  
*Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the mammal is a human.

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